

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
MAG BUILDING CODES COMMITTEE

July 21, 1999  
Maricopa Association of Governments Office  
Saguaro Room  
Phoenix, Arizona

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Leon Manuel, El Mirage, Chairman	Gary Pasciack for Fred King Maricopa County
Ken Sowers, Avondale	Tom Mattingly, Mesa
* Cave Creek	Armando Rivas, Paradise Valley
* Carefree	Ibrahim Maslamani, Peoria
Alex Banachowski, Chandler	* Bob Goodhue, Phoenix
* Patrick Davis, Fountain Hills	Todd Wyman for Adam Sessions, Queen Creek
Ralph Vasquez, Gila Bend	Dave Potter, Scottsdale
G. Scott Wakeford for Jo Rene DeVeau , Gila	Forrest Fielder, Surprise
River Indian Community	* Michael Williams, Tempe
Ray Patten, Gilbert	Mario Rochin, Tolleson
Larry Richards, Glendale	* Skip Blunt, Wickenburg
Steve Burger, Goodyear	Red Miller, Youngtown
Richard Hughes, Litchfield Park	Russ Brock, Arizona Homebuilders Association

\*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Roger Vermillion, Tempe	Don Richardson, Arizona Fireplaces
Pam Wertz, Glendale	Pat Bushell, Wood Truss Council of Arizona
Amanda Ormond, Department of Commerce	Jeff Campbell, Wood Truss Council of Arizona
Frances K. Smith, Southwest Gas	Harry P. Wolfe, MAG
Phil Pettice, Registrar of Contractors	

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Chairman Leon Manuel.

2. Approval of June 16, 1999 Meeting Minutes

Dave Potter stated that the list of cities that made amendments to the various building codes as noted on pages 3 and 4 was inaccurate. Harry Wolfe responded that he would correct the inaccuracies and

provide an update at the next meeting of the MAG Building Codes Committee

Larry Richards noted that on page 3 of the minutes the cities of Peoria, Glendale, Scottsdale and Queen Creek were listed as having adopted the Codes **without** any amendments. He said that the word “without” should be changed to with. He also added that on the third line of agenda item 7, the word “be” should be deleted.

It was moved by Larry Richards, seconded by Tom Mattingly and unanimously recommended to approve the meeting minutes of June 16, 1999 as amended.

3. Call to the Public

Ibrahim Maslamani distributed the planning review checklist that is used by the City of Peoria.

Leon Manuel reported that at the last meeting of the MAG Building Codes Committee, a representative from the Arizona Awning & Patio Enclosure Association had asked the MAG Building Codes Committee if aluminum patio covers could be attached to trusses. The ICBO and NER Evaluation Reports state that patio covers can be attached to rafters. He indicated that the question was referred to the Structural Engineers Association, who had not yet forwarded him a response. Mr. Manuel also mentioned that he notified the representative of the Arizona Awning & Patio Enclosure Association, per their request, that the question had not yet been answered and that there was no need to come to today’s meeting.

Tom Mattingly commended Tom Hedges for the survey he sent out on light weight shade structures for vehicles. He said that addressing the uniformity of the structures was an important issue.

Steve Burger said he sent out a survey about reinspections versus cancellations and would bring the results of the survey to the next meeting.

4. Installation of Gas Logs and Compliance with the MAG Standard for Fireplaces

Fran Smith of Southwest Gas addressed the Building Codes Committee regarding the interpretation of what is meant by “permanently installed” with respect to the MAG Standard for Fireplaces. She said that based upon an interpretation by Jo Crumbaker of Maricopa County, who was on the Committee that helped draft from standards, “permanently installed” fireplace would be one where gas piping would be connected to the fireplace and the burner attached to the unit. She said that some inspectors were interpreting any wood burning fireplace as against the ordinance.

Don Richardson expressed concern about the lack of uniformity among cities with regard to dampers.

Ms. Smith noted that the price of Natural Gas fireplaces was \$800-\$3,000, while wood burning fireplaces used to cost \$350-\$1,700 and EPA approved wood burning fireplaces ranged in price from \$1,800-\$2,000.

Tom Mattingly responded that it would seem to him that the fireplace would need to be converted so that it could not burn wood. He also disagreed with the idea noted by Fran Smith that the fireplace

would be evaluated for compliance with the MAG standard at the final inspection. Mr. Mattingly said that the inspection should be done earlier, rather than waiting until the construction is completed.

The issue of dampers was referred to the Building Inspectors and Plans Examiners Forum for their evaluation.

5. Prefabricated Truss Sheets Required Prior to the Issuance of a Building Permit

Jeff Campbell expressed concern with cities requiring a truss sheet before a building permit can be issued. He said that the Wood Truss Council of Arizona wanted uniformity as it relates to truss sheets. Larry Richards said that Glendale offers Truss seminars. He added that all building inspectors should be able to read and understand truss plans in the field.

Ibrahim Maslamani said that he understood that the Building Inspectors and Plans Examiner Forum was dealing with this issue.

Larry Richards said that his inspectors identify quite a few changes such as changes from approved truss plans include truss manufacturer, truss design, girder truss location, etc.

Forrest Fielder asked what the Wood Truss Council's position was on the waiver procedure. Several members of the Building Codes committee indicated that they made use of waivers.

Jeff Campbell said that the Wood Truss Council would like to know what the Truss rules are so that the Council can distribute them to their manufacturers.

Ibrahim Maslamani asked who was on the Truss Council. Jeff Campbell responded that 30-40 members were on the Council and that most of them were from the Valley.

Larry Richards expressed concern with an article in the June/July 1999 issue of Woodward's indicating that the enforcement of Truss markings has been suspended in the Phoenix area. He said that was not true. It was noted that the Building Codes Committee was interested in examining the issue, but there was no recommendation to drop enforcement.

6. Update of the ISO Building Department Ratings

As requested as a topic from the July Building Code Committee meeting, Leon Manuel indicated we will survey committee members on their status in the national Insurance Service Office evaluation of their building department. Committee members provided the following information regarding their rating (cities not yet inspected were given an NR for not rated)

Jurisdiction	Rating	Jurisdiction	Rating
Avondale	NR	Mesa	6

Chandler	5	Peoria	4
El Mirage	NR	Phoenix	3
Gila Bend	5	Queen Creek	5
Gila River	NR	Scottsdale	4
Gilbert	5	Surprise	NR
Glendale	3	Tempe	5
Goodyear	5	Tolleson	NR
Litchfield Park	NR	Youngtown	8

Committee members noted that their rating was lowered substantially based on staffing. Dave Potter expressed concern about rating cities building departments based on number of employees rather than the quality of the services provided by the department.

7. Update of the Building Inspectors and Plans Examiners Forum

Forrest Fielder announced that Roger Vermillion of Tempe and Pam Wertz of Glendale had been elected Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively of the Building Inspectors and Plans Examiners Forum.

Roger Vermillion stated that during the coming year some of the topics the Forum will be considering include: Truss identification, one-hour separation standard between the house and the garage, medical gas inspection standard, inspection standard for light fixtures and air terminals in suspended grid ceilings. He encouraged building officials to allow their staff to attend the forum meetings.

Russ Brock asked that the Forum consider the issue of consistency in ADA requirements. Tom Mattingly suggested that the issue be raised before the full committee and that a policy be developed.

8. State Plumbing Code Commission

Steve Burger reported that Tom Hedges had e-mailed committee members an unofficial set of minutes for the July 20, 1999 State Plumbing Code Commission meeting. A hard copy of the “minutes” was distributed to committee members.

Dave Potter expressed concern about treating ground water or graywater and resolving differences between the plumbing code commission and DEQ.

Larry Richards pointed out that the Governor vetoed funding for the Commission because she believed that their work was completed. It was noted that the Chair of the Committee was writing the Governor a letter to say that their work was not completed and that more funding was needed.

Dave Potter pointed out that there was no reason that the State Plumbing Code Commission could not have deleted the sections that deal with septic tanks and gray water since DEQ addresses the issue.

9. Legislative Issues

There were no legislative issues to discuss.

10. Topics for Future Agendas

Topics for future agenda that were noted included: the completion of surveys, Structural Engineers Association opinion on aluminum patio cover attachment to trusses, and the ADA issue. Dave Potter volunteered to do a survey on the ADA and present the results at the next building codes committee meeting.

It was agreed that there would be a meeting of the Building Codes Committee in August, but that none would be held in September.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.